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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord God, all the times and seasons are in Your hands because all is fixed by You in the laws of nature.

But through natural disasters, Lord, many people have recently suffered great losses due to hurricanes and earthquakes. Have mercy on them all. Even as we continue to pray and assist those already afflicted and in great need, we now are aware of another approaching storm named Wilma.

Lord, help all those who prepare for the worst. In their fear and anxiety keep them safe, law abiding, and compassionately concerned for others.

Lord, steer this storm away from our shores, and let Your powerful Word calm the sea and bring to Your people a sigh of relief.

This we hope and pray by calling upon Your Holy Name. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an

amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 3204. An act to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to extent Federal funding for the establishment and operation of State high risk health insurance pools.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1736. An act to provide for the participation of employees in the judicial branch in the Federal leave transfer program for disasters and emergencies.

S. 1894. An act to amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to provide for the making of foster care maintenance payments to private for-profit agencies.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 109-59, section 1909(b)(2)(A)(vi), the Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, appoints the following individuals to serve as members of the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission:

Francis McArdle of New York.
Tom R. Skancke of Nevada.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will recognize up to 10 one-minutes on each side.

REDUCING COSTS IN MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SPENDING

(Mr. MURPHY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, 80 percent of the Nation's total medical care costs, including Medicaid expenditures, are spent in the treatment of chronic conditions such as diabetes, arthritis, and cardiovascular disease. Chronic disease often involves multiple diagnoses, hospitalizations, tests, and treatments. All of this is expensive and

complex, and as health care costs soar we can save lives and money using better patient management.

Under patient care management plans, patients are monitored by nurses to coordinate their complex care, monitor prescription use, watch out for problems, and empower patients to get involved in their own care. Money spent up front dramatically lowers health care costs and, most importantly, improves patient outcome.

A patient management program at the Washington Hospital in southwestern Pennsylvania taught patients to self-manage their disease through diet, lifestyle changes, medication monitoring, and depression screening. The result has been a remarkable 50 percent decrease in hospital readmission rates.

I urge my colleagues to learn more about reducing costs in Federal Medicare and Medicaid spending through better patient care management programs by visiting my Web site at murphy.house.gov.

CONGRATULATING NATIONAL LEAGUE CHAMPION HOUSTON ASTROS

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to congratulate the Houston Astros, the major league baseball team which last night defeated the St. Louis Cardinals to earn the right to go to the 2005 World Series. This is the first World Series for the City of Houston and the first World Series for the State of Texas. The Astros and the Texas Rangers were founded in 1962 and 1961 respectively.

Also, first congratulating the team for its hard work and dedication, I want to express thanks to our owner

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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Drayton McLane, who has been a tremendous asset to the City of Houston. It was an honor to work closely with him on the Harris County Sports Authority to build what is now Minute Maid Park to replace the historic Houston Astrodome.

I want to salute Tal Smith, who is a great part of the Astros' organization since the beginning when they were the Colt 45's. As the President of Baseball Operations, he has been an integral part of the entire organization.

The Houston Astros do not have one of the highest payrolls in baseball, so the fact that they are now in the World Championship is a tribute to our general manager Tim Lincecum and also our manager Phil "Scrap Iron" Garner, who actually played for the Astros years ago. It is good to have him back home.

Many of the 2005 National League Champion Houston Astros are products of our minor league farm system, not high-priced free agents, including the winner of last night's game, Roy Oswalt. The Astros were the best team in baseball for the month of July and never looked back. Now they are the best team in the National League and look forward to taking on the White Sox in the 2005 World Series, Mr. Speaker.

In addition we have a lot of homegrown talent. Craig Biggio, Jeff Bagwell, Roger Clemens and Andy Pettitte, again, are some of our great players along with the whole team. Again, congratulations, and I yield back my time Mr. Speaker.

ANNOUNCING PREMIER OF "HUMAN TRAFFICKING" ON LIFETIME TV NETWORK

(Mr. SMITH of New Jersey asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. "Do you think it is possible when you have lost your humanity to ever find it again?"

So asks Helena, a fictitious but all too real human trafficking victim from Prague after describing how she was raped and abused to ICE law enforcement agent Kate Morozov, played brilliantly by Academy Award-winning actress Mira Sorvino in Lifetime TV Network's mini series Human Trafficking, to be aired next week.

My wife Marie and I have watched the entire trafficking movie last night, and we were moved to tears by this extraordinarily accurate portrayal of sex slavery from the eyes of victims, and the dedicated law enforcement agents trying to effectuate their rescue.

My wife and I and my staff have been fighting sex trafficking, Mr. Speaker, since the late 1990s, when there was utter disbelief about whether or not it even existed. Sadly, it does. I would note parenthetically that I am the prime sponsor of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, a comprehensive landmark law that provides

for prevention, protection or victims, and prosecution and incarceration of the traffickers. I also sponsored the TPVA Reauthorization Act of 2003 as well as pending Legislation—H.R. 972.

The movie tells the individual stories of exploited young women and girls from the Czech Republic, Ukraine, Philippines, Romania, Russia, and a 12-year-old girl, an American girl, Annie Gray, who was abducted by traffickers in Manila. ICE agent in charge Donald Sutherland joins Sorvino in bringing down a powerful but clever sex trafficking boss and others who use force, fraud, coercion, and even murder to enslave women.

It is time, Mr. Speaker, that the ignorance, the indifference and complicity in human trafficking came to an end. Every year 800,000 people are trafficked around the world. Millions more are trafficked intra-country. And up to 18,000 are trafficked into the U.S. each year. Watch this powerful movie next week, Lifetime TV, 9 p.m., Monday and Tuesday.

CONGRATULATING NATIONAL LEAGUE CHAMPION HOUSTON ASTROS

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, there are days that we can come to this floor and obviously raise issues of great concern to America and Americans. But I would like to think that we can also come to this floor and celebrate a joyous family of great ball players in a city that has longed for a winner in American baseball history. And, yes, founded in 1962, the Houston Astros have won the place to play in the World Series. And so I say: Go Astros. And I say thank you to a great city of fans, Houston, Texas, to the Drayton McLane family. Mr. and Mrs. McLane and their children have been a wonderful addition to Houston. They love their team, they love their city. To their staff, to the pitching staff like Clemens and Pettite and Oswalt. To Bagwell and Biggio. And, of course, to all the old players, or they will not want to be called old but to Enos Cabell and many others.

We know that we have got a tough road ahead to go to the World Series, but who can beat a team who was down on Monday night and came back and won 5-1. All we can say is it is about family values. And when I say family values, it is about a family of players who are committed and dedicated to their tasks and who never gave up. Houstonians did not give up, Mr. Speaker, and so I am here this morning to say: Go Astros. Go Astros.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MS. BETTY LYNN REAGAN

(Mr. BOOZMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a dedicated educator, Ms. Betty Lynn Reagan, who passed away earlier this month. For 47 years, Ms. Reagan taught school in Rogers, Arkansas. As a former member of the Rogers School Board and the father of three daughters who attended public schools there, I can personally attest to the impact Ms. Reagan had on the lives of her students. She was greatly respected in the classroom, in the education community and the community at large.

Throughout her career, Ms. Reagan received a number of awards and commendations, including induction into the Education Hall of Fame in 1995. However, the most notable came in 1989, when the community renamed a school for her and her sister Mary Sue, also a long time teacher and outstanding educator. Reagan Elementary will serve as a reminder for future generations of the impact that Betty Lynn and Mary Sue Reagan have had on our community.

Mr. Speaker, Betty Lynn Reagan will certainly be missed. However, her legacy will live on for generations to come. Rogers School District Superintendent Janie Darr summed it up best when she said: Because of Betty Lynn, the School District and the City of Rogers is a much, much better place.

I thank my colleagues for the opportunity to honor and celebrate the life of this wonderful woman.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET CUTS

(Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, this week we were to take up the Republican leadership budget bill that would have cut student loans, rural and agricultural programs, LIHEAP low energy assistance programs, and other major programs in our Federal budget that the American people depend on. I am happy to report at this moment they have postponed that legislation just for today.

We want Americans all over to speak up and to contact your Congresspeople. This is not the time to cut vital human family programs like student aid, like rural and agricultural development, like food stamps, and like low energy assistance programs. Do we have problems in America? Yes, we do. But we hope our Republican leadership will not bring a budget resolution forward that will further decimate and hurt families. At a time when many manufacturing jobs have been lost in America, in my own State of Michigan, the highest unemployment State in the country, this is not the time to cut vital programs. It is time, though, not to have a \$1.7 trillion cost for a tax cut for the wealthiest of Americans.

Speak up, America. Let your voice be heard.